

COMMON INCIDENT COMMAND CENTER SITUATIONS

WMD/ Terrorist Situations

(May 2006)

NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS GIVEN UNDER CONDITIONS OF WHAT IS CURRENTLY KNOWN REGARDING THESE TYPES OF DANGERS. BE PREPARED FOR NEW AND/OR REVISED INFORMATION!!!

Suspicious Letter/Package/Container:

Potential Contacts and/or Report Distribution: (**BOLD = REQUIRED CONTACTS**)

- **E-Mail “EER Office of Homeland Security”** group on “Homeland Security Threat” / WMD reports received. If the report is a NRC Fax, the Duty Officer should scan the NRC Fax and include it as an attachment in the e-mail.
- **E-mail** (January 4, 2005 memo on Guidance for EER E-Mail Messages) if EER response is made.

Duty Officer Considerations:

Also see MDHSS Health Alert #44 (“How to Handle Anthrax Threats, Including Letters and Packages Containing Unknown Powdery Substances”)

Get As Much Information As Possible (*Is This a Credible Threat?*):

- Has the caller contacted local law enforcement? (This is the first step the caller should take if a credible threat is perceived.)
- Type of package (envelope, box, jar, bag, etc.)
- Is the container opened or unopened?
- Has any material spilled out or been otherwise released?
- Is the material a liquid, powder (color?), vapor, mist, solid object, etc.?
- How was the container discovered: sent in mail, hand delivered, found?
- Was the package accompanied by a written or verbal threat?
- Who else was near the area at the time of discovery?
- What other response agencies have been notified?

If we are dealing with an **UNOPENED** container, what makes the caller suspicious?

Does the package/container have:

- Excessive postage;
- Handwritten or poorly typed addresses;
- Incorrect titles;
- Title of an individual, but no name;
- Misspellings of common words;
- No return address;
- Restrictive endorsements, such as “Personal” or “Confidential” and if so are those words hand written;

- A postmark city or state that does not match the return address?
- Threatening language marked on the outside;
- Powdery substance felt through or appearing on package;
- Oily stains, discoloration or an odor;
- Excessive weight;
- Lopsided or uneven envelope;
- Protruding wires or aluminum foil;
- Ticking sound;
- Excessive security materials such as masking tape, string, etc.;
- Visual distractions;

Recommendations:

- Advise caller not to open or unnecessarily handle the package or envelope.
- If the recipient of a piece of mail was not expecting something from the return address and is concerned with opening said mail, advise the caller not to do so. If the letter/package/container is not otherwise suspicious, it may then be discarded as solid waste, i.e. thrown away.
- Advise caller to wash hands with soap and water.
- If you determine that the package is suspicious:
 - If a white powder or unknown chemical is suspected, proceed to the next section.
 - If an explosive device is suspected, see guidelines below and contact law enforcement. Caller should be advised not to touch or move the item.

If we are dealing with an **OPENED** container, identify potential hazards:

SEE ABOVE LIST

- Is there a letter, note, or other threatening message?
- Do not move the container;
- Have people been splashed, sprayed, contaminated, are they ill, or otherwise affected?
- Has the immediate area been evacuated and sealed off/closed up? If not do so;
- Has the material, container been isolated? If not do so;
- Have others, family members, co-workers, supervisors, janitorial services, etc., as appropriate, been questioned as to the nature of the material?
- Has this ever happened before?
- Could this be the work of a disgruntled employee?
- Have the police been contacted?
- Has the fire department or hazmat team been contacted?
- Could the material be something someone at the business/home ordered through the mail, uses at the business, etc?
- Discuss with the caller the likelihood that he/she or the business would be a likely target of a terrorist attack, e.g. Federal/State government/office, sensitive industry, media, etc.

Recommendations:

- Advise the caller not to attempt to clean any spilled/released material.

- If the caller has been contaminated by a powdered substance, advise him/her NOT TO PANIC.
- Any air handling systems should be shut down.
- If the caller has not left the location of the discovery, advise them to proceed to the nearest wash room and to wash his or her hands and face with **SOAP AND WATER**.
- Advise the caller to REMOVE heavily contaminated clothing as soon as possible and with as little shaking as possible, preferably before leaving the discovery location. Pulling clothing over the head should be avoided. Cut them off instead. The clothing should be placed in a plastic bag and saved.
- Advise the caller to SHOWER with **SOAP AND WATER**. Bleach or Other Disinfectants Should NOT Be Used on Exposed Skin (this can lead to abrasions, which might make the situation worse).
- Before advising evacuation, ensure that people on the scene do not go home or to another location before being decontaminated. If the incident occurred inside a building, advise the affected people to go outside.
- Advise caller to make a list who were in the room or nearby when the suspicious letter/package/container was discovered and a list of persons who may have handled the item. This should be given to local public health authorities and law enforcement officials.
- If the incident becomes a credible WMD event, it will quickly elevate into a crime scene investigation. Notify SEMA, MDHSS, FBI, USEPA and send a E-mail to ALPD Director and the EER General Notifications List.

Known Facts:

ANTHRAX:

1. Anthrax organisms can cause infection in the skin, gastrointestinal system, or lungs ONLY when rubbed into abraded skin, swallowed, or inhaled as a fine, aerosolized mist. The disease can be prevented after exposure by early treatment with antibiotics. (No vaccine is commercially available at this time).
2. Symptoms can appear within 7 days. If inhaled, symptoms can appear within one week or up to 42 days. For cutaneous infections, symptoms usually occur within 1 or 2 days.
3. Anthrax is not contagious (spread from one individual to another).
4. Converting anthrax organisms into an aerosolized mist is difficult to do and requires special equipment and knowledge.
5. Prompt recognition of the danger and early treatment are effective in preventing the disease.

RICIN:

1. Ricin is a toxin derived from waste “mash” left over from castor bean processing into oil.
2. Ricin can be in the form of a powder, mist, or pellet, or it can be dissolved in water or weak acid.
3. It can be inhaled, ingested, or injected causing fever, coughing, nausea, and tightness in the chest followed by heavy sweating and fluid in the lungs (inhalation), or vomiting, diarrhea, blood in stool or urine, low blood pressure, and seizures (ingestion).
4. Symptoms of exposure occur within 6 (ingestion) to 8 (inhalation) hours.
5. Ricin can be aerosolized, but no cases of human ricin inhalation are known.

6. Ricin poisoning is not contagious (spread from one individual to another).

IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE:

1. Letter bombs and packages containing explosives can be deceptively small and lightweight.
2. The three components of an explosive device are an oxidizer, fuel, and heat. The first two can be mixed together in solid or liquid form. Enough heat for initiation can be generated from dropping or other impact, from friction, or from electrostatic discharge.
3. NEVER advise or attempt deactivation of a suspected explosive device. Contact a bomb squad (see Explosives section of Common ICC Situations document).

EER Actions:

- If an EER response is made to a suspicious letter/package/container incident, request information as to the safest route of entry to the area.
- Consider sending more than one responder or the use of hazmat technicians associated with fire departments, hazmat teams, etc.
- **USE APPROPRIATE LEVEL PPE WHEN DOING AN ENTRY.** For suspicious powder incidents, the primary consideration in PPE selection is protecting respiratory and ingestion pathways. Skin contact is also important. Level B protection with hooded saranex and taped wrists and ankles is recommended for EER staff. Wet decontamination capability may be needed depending on the situation. Level A entry is advised if people have been injured/affected or it is suspected that a toxic vapor or liquid chemical has been released.
- Exercise extreme caution if the nature of the hazard is unknown or if an explosive device is suspected. Don't hesitate to get law enforcement involved.
- Any samples collected should be triple bagged, and possibly containerized (overpacked) prior to transportation to the Missouri Department of Health's Laboratory, which can be contacted at 800-392-0272.

Chemical WMD Agent:

Potential Contacts and/or Report Distribution: (**BOLD = REQUIRED CONTACTS**)

- **SEMA, MDHSS, FBI, USEPA, FSD Admin., Regional Office**
- Send **E-mail** in the event of any WMD event to ALPD Director and the EER General Notifications List.

Duty Officer Considerations:

- All suspected releases of chemical WMD agents should be treated as a hazardous materials events. The main differences include:
 - Law enforcement will play a significant role and will likely take control of the scene.
 - During initial investigations and once a hot zone has been established Level A PPE will be required for entry.
 - The presence of an improvised explosive device (IED) or secondary IED should be considered.

Biological WMD Agent:

Potential Contacts and/or Report Distribution: (BOLD = REQUIRED CONTACTS)

- **SEMA, MDHSS, FBI, USEPA, FSD Admin., Regional Office**
- Send **E-mail** in the event of **any** WMD event to the ALPD Director and the EER General Notifications List.

Duty Officer Considerations:

- Suspicious white powder incidents are described above in the “Suspicious Letter/Package/Container” Section.
- Unless accompanied by an IED or other immediately recognizable WMD incident, most biological WMD events may not be discovered until hours or days after the release.
- The MDHSS should be contacted if such an event is suspected (800-392-0272). They will likely be the lead state agency.

Radiological WMD Event:

Potential Contacts and/or Report Distribution: (BOLD = REQUIRED CONTACTS)

- **SEMA, MDHSS, FBI, USEPA, FSD Admin., Regional Office**
- Send **E-mail** in the event of **any** WMD event to the ALPD Director and the EER General Notifications List.

Duty Officer Considerations:

- See the Common ICC Situations section on Radiological incidents.
- Contact SEMA and MDHSS immediately.
- Refer to § 37 and § 10 of the HSERP for detailed guidance on responses to radiological incidents.
- Radiological WMD events may be accompanied by an Improvised Explosive Device (**Dirty Bomb**) or radioactive material may have been spread in a public area, resulting in widespread contamination on and off site.
- In the event a caller has become contaminated, advise them to:
 - Leave the immediate area on foot. Do not panic. Do not take public or private transportation such as buses, subways, or cars because if radioactive materials were involved, they may contaminate cars or the public transportation system.
 - If outside, go inside the nearest building. Staying inside will reduce people's exposure to any radioactive material that may be on dust at the scene. If contamination occurred inside, go to the nearest room or building likely to be uncontaminated.
 - Remove their clothes as soon as possible, place them in a plastic bag, and seal it. Removing clothing will remove most of the contamination caused by external

- exposure to radioactive materials. Saving the contaminated clothing would allow testing for exposure without invasive sampling.
- Take a shower or wash themselves as best they can. Washing will reduce the amount of radioactive contamination on the body and will effectively reduce total exposure.
 - Be on the lookout for information. Once emergency personnel can assess the scene and the damage, they will be able to tell people whether radiation was involved.

EER Response to a WMD Event:

- EER OSC's on scene should integrate into the incident command system or unified command system. Placement within the ICS will depend on the situation. Contact with a liaison officer or incident commander should be made immediately upon arrival at the scene.
- If an EER OSC is the **first** responder on scene with capabilities to perform screening for WMD components, they should:
 - If actual WMD event is suspected, BACK OFF and call for Homeland Security Response Team and law enforcement.
 - Don appropriate PPE (Level A only if integrated into designated Homeland Security Response Team).
 - Screen for radiation.
 - Carefully look for evidence of explosive devices.
 - Conduct air monitoring for chemical hazards (PID, FID, CGI, APD 2000, Hapsite, etc.)
 - Collect samples for analysis.
 - Field testing (Hazmat IR, HazCat Kit)
- EER OSC on-site roles may include:
 - Documentation (written and photographic) and reporting back to the ICC.
 - Performing agent identification tests in hot or warm zone
 - Sample collection.
 - Source material containment/overpack
 - Perimeter monitoring and off-site impact assessment.